

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 15 (a so-called...), with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A so-called LD (laser diode) pumped solid-state laser, which has a laser diode (hereinafter, abbreviated as LD) with higher absorption efficiency to a laser medium than a lamp and is small, highly efficient and has a long lifetime as ~~[[an]]~~ a pumping light source, has drawn attention in recent years as ~~[[an]]~~ a method of pumping ~~method by~~ light from a solid-state laser medium such as an Nd:YAG. Particularly, an LD-pumped solid-state laser apparatus has been developed in recent years, which emits a laser output reaching a kilowatt by using a few hundred LD's in one resonator.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 25 (It is believed...), bridging page 2, as follows:

--It is believed that the LD has a more than ten times longer lifetime ~~longer~~ than the lamp ~~more than ten times and it~~ and the LD can be continuously used for as much as 10,000 hours. However, the lifetime is an average and output from some LD's reduces after ~~use for about~~ a few thousand hours, and it is difficult to completely recognize and remove them at initial LD selection. Further, since the LD reduces its lifetime

considerably due to ~~disturbance~~ disturbances and changes in the  
external environment, such as static electricity, electric  
[[surge]] surges from a power source, return light, dust, gas and  
condensation, it is necessary to detect a [[light]] quantity of a  
~~pumping~~ light pumped from the LD and know a degree of its  
degradation by some means in order to improve the reliability of  
the laser apparatus and to deal with a failure quickly.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line  
18 (Further, a method...), as follows:

--Further, a method has conventionally been used in  
which a laser oscillation light emitted outside the resonator  
from an output mirror that composes a solid-state laser resonator  
is partially split or the photo-detector measures the energy of  
the oscillation light leaked from a mirror other than the output  
mirror, [[and]] thus controlling the laser output or detecting  
the degradation of LD.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line  
25 (Furthermore, a method...), bridging page 3, as follows:

--Furthermore, a method has also been proposed, which  
detects fluorescence intensity or fluorescence distribution in a  
direction along a laser oscillation optical axis or on its  
extension. Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 show the method described in

Japanese Patent Laid-Open (unexamined) No. 2000-269576. ~~In the~~  
~~gazette, a~~ A method is proposed ~~[[that]]~~ in which a monitoring  
mirror splits fluorescence emitted from a solid-state laser rod  
along the laser oscillation optical axis, a CCD camera transforms  
its pumping distribution into an image for observation, and a  
drive current for each LD is adjusted individually based on the  
image to unify the pumping distribution. The prior art will be  
described as follows.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line  
24 (As shown in...), bridging page 27, as follows:

--As shown in Fig. ~~[[5]]~~ 4, a plurality of laser diode  
devices 20a to 20h (each output of about 40W) are disposed along  
the longitudinal direction of an Nd:YAG laser rod 10 (Nd  
concentration: 0.7%at, rod diameter: 5cm and rod length: 10cm, for  
example), and pumping light 40a to 40h (wavelength: 809nm) emitted  
from the devices is shaped through optical systems 30a to 30h and  
irradiated on the laser rod 10.--